

SDAF – Colorado Blue Spruce - Douglas-fir - Quaking Aspen Forest (Map Unit 4)



Photo credit: Jim Von Loh



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The Colorado Blue Spruce - Douglas-fir - Quaking Aspen Forest (SDAF, Map Unit 4) represents a combination of the *Picea pungens* / *Juniperus communis* (Colorado Blue Spruce / Common Juniper) Forest Association, the *Pseudotsuga menziesii* / *Juniperus communis* (Douglas-fir / Common Juniper) Forest Association, the *Populus tremuloides* (Quaking Aspen) Forest Alliance, and the *Populus tremuloides* / *Juniperus communis* (Quaking Aspen / Common Juniper) Forest Association.

This map unit occupies the north-facing sides of the intermittent and perennial drainages in the extreme southeastern part of the monument and increases in area outside the monument's boundaries to the east. The elevations range from 8680-8860 feet. It differs from the Colorado Blue Spruce - Douglas-fir Forest (SDF, Map Unit 3) and the Quaking Aspen Forest (AF, Map Unit 11) in the fact that there is a more even distribution of the coniferous and deciduous trees in SDAF. The other two map units are dominated by one or the other of the tree types.

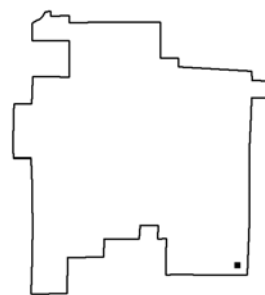
SDAF – Colorado Blue Spruce - Douglas-fir - Quaking Aspen Forest (Map Unit 4) Continued

Photo Signatures

The associations are evenly mixed, although it is easy to distinguish the Quaking Aspen Forests from the Colorado Blue Spruce - Douglas-fir Forests. In the natural color aerial photography, the Quaking Aspen part of the SDAF appears as light green and the Colorado Blue Spruce - Douglas-fir part is dark green. In the color infrared aerial photography, the Quaking Aspen areas appear as dark red and the Colorado Blue Spruce - Douglas-fir areas appear as blue-black. In both types of photography, all associations have a coarse mottled texture. The canopy is nearly 100% closed and the tree heights are 20-35 meters. Photo SDAF-1 (natural color) was taken in September 1996 and SDAF-2 (color infrared) was taken in August 1983. Both photos are of the same location.



Photo SDAF-1



Location of **SDAF-1** within
National Monument

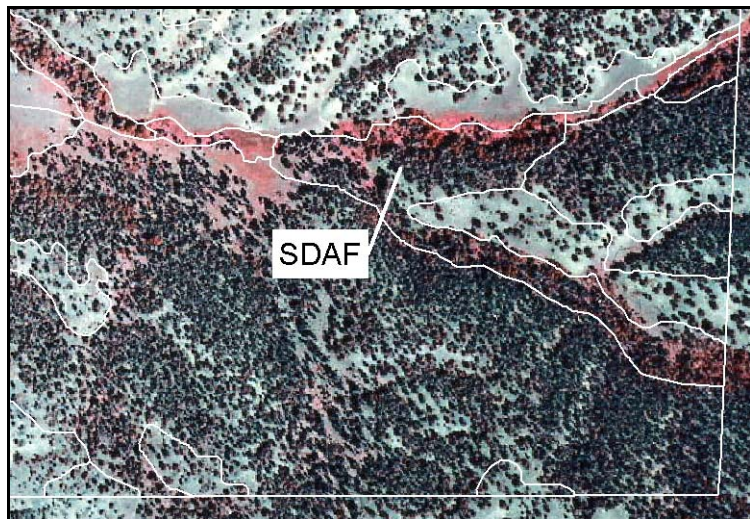
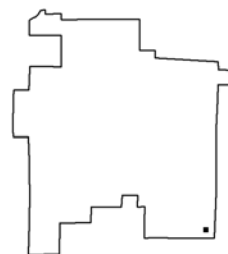


Photo SDAF-2



Location of **SDAF-2** within
National Monument

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Area Report for SDAF Map Unit

Number of Polygons: 2

Number of Hectares: 4.1

Number of Acres: 10.1

Average Size: 2.1 hectares, 5.1 acre

Accuracy Assessment Results for SDAF Map Unit

The Colorado Blue Spruce - Douglas-fir - Quaking Aspen Forest Map Unit was assessed at 100% for producers' accuracy and at 100% users' accuracy.